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STATE DOCUMENTS

MONTANA
FARM LABOR REPORT

1970

STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
MONTANA EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION

affiliated with

MANPOWER ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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FARM LABOR SECTION
OF THE
MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

JESS C. FLETHCER, DIRECTOR

A DIVISION OF THE EMPLOYMENT

SECURITY COMMISSION OF MONTANA

GORDON R. BENNETT, CHAIRMAN

JAMES J. FLAHERTY, COMMISSIONER

WALTER H. MCLEOD, COMMISSIONER

FEED LOT - Contractors began work last week on a gigantic feed lot located two and one half miles northwest of Fairview on the State Line Road. Receiving the general contract work was Dabco Inc., LaSalle, Colo. Ajax Sewer and Water of Arvado, Colo., is the sub-contractor for water and sewer lines. Doing the steel work at the lot is George Olson Welding, Sidney. Construction of the feed bunks will be done by Pete and D.L. Concrete of Greeley, Colo.

Sidney Area - Courtesy Sidney Herald

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Part I. ANNUAL SUMMARY

PLANNING

A. Changes in Administrative Organization:

No changes were made in administrative organization during the 1970 season except that rural manpower concepts continued to be incorporated into the farm labor programs. FPR's were assigned non-agricultural contacts and duties to conform with the present rural programs. This could not be an extensive change due to lack of finances for an overall rural program. The overall mechanical administrative structure remains the same. More attention is to be given rural areas.

B. Pre-Season and In-Season Meetings:

State and local office Farm Placement personnel participated and cooperated with growers and processors throughout the season and attended meetings whenever and wherever things could be accomplished.

Farm Placement personnel, as heretofore, continued to work throughout the year with county and state Extension Services, Montana State Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stablization and Conservation County Committees and other farm organizations.

C. Special Arrangements for Recruitment are made in Cooperation with other Government Agencies in Other States.

Orders for sugar beet workers were placed in clearance with the State of Texas. In accordance with an agreement of several years, the Colorado Agency recruited workers in Texas for the Holly Sugar Co. in Montana.

A special program for youths was continued in sugar beet activity in the Billings area. Average earnings were greater this year. The program was successful with few problems developing. The program is active in agricultural reporting area 9-27-02.

Fewer Indians from local areas were recruited for the potato harvests due to mechanization. Youths were recruited extensively for hay and grain harvests. Sugar beet labor activity was continued but on a reduced scale in area 9-27-01. Due to an influx of labor into the state during the 1970 season, very little interstate recruitment was necessary except for sugar beet workers. The amount of these workers was reduced by several hundred from the previous season.

ECONOMIC TRENDS

Major changes in the agricultural economy which had an impact on employment were, first of all, a reduced grain and sugar beet crop. Most areas received sufficient moisture and summer growing weather was very good, thus speeding grain and hay harvest. Turnover in the small youth beet program was normal, weed-acides were a great help. Crop planting was reduced for winter wheat. Very good weather was a boon to harvests this year. Stock was returned to winter ranges under above average conditions. Yields on hay were exceptional. Grain was very good except in a few areas. The general harvest of all crops was excellent in spite of an early freeze. Tonnage was as good as was expected on sugar beets. Labor was more than adequate for the beet harvest with a good influx of Texas Mexicans. An excess of labor migrated into the state.

Due to a normal harvest season, hired workers were sufficient for the work force. The largest demands were in wheat, other small grains and hay harvests. Beet thinning and pulling of weeds was normal. Harvest seasons and activity was normal. Beet and potato harvests had no delays. Some potatoes were damaged by frost and some areas noted a decrease in farm employment. Wages and mechanical improvements continued. Adverse weather caused very little schedule changes on labor which resulted in late season shortages. Community programs were not needed to help the harvest.

Hay and harvest hands were plentiful and amply taken care of by recruitment when necessary. It was a good year in farm employment much as it was the previous year. However, a decline of demands was noted throughout the state and increased use of large machinery was evident.

There was no major changes in land utilization in 1970 brought about by participation in production and acreage control programs of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, nor has expansion of urban development into rural areas caused large significant changes. Farms were decreasing and getting larger. An influx of rural to urban continued. An unexpected influx of labor from other states helped the Montana labor supply.

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

A. Seasonal Hired Farm Workers

Local labor is generally male and operates machinery such as tractors, hay balers, trucks and small grain combines. They also perform non-agricultural work, as heavy equipment operators, truck drivers, and construction labor.

Females work as ranch couples or single as ranch cook. Non-agricultural employment is generally as cook in a cafe or domestic work. In western Montana, housewives work in the small fruit and berry harvests. There is an increased demand for female truck drivers during the sugar beet harvest.

Some high school youths of both sexes are recruited to hoe and thin sugar beets. Approximately 7,500 interstate male workers are employed in agricultural activities of small grains, haying and livestock activities. They are single or unattached. These workers are mostly from California, Idaho, Minnesota, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming and Colorado. They also perform non-agricultural work as truck drivers and construction laborers. A number of farm couples also come into the state.

Approximately 3,000 interstate workers are employed in the hoeing and thinning of sugar beets. These workers are primarily family groups, and both sexes 14 years and older work. Their main occupation is that of a vegetable farm laborer. The majority of these workers are from Texas and are of Mexican descent.

The most significant shortages of seasonal farm workers were for the spring and fall seeding. Domestic workers who were available for this activity were from surrounding states. There was actually a surplus of workers in the state during the regular growing season. The supply of student labor was also greater.

Professional cherry pickers were available for Polson and Kalispell orchards, however, rain storms destroyed the crop after one-third was harvested.

B. Regular Hired Farm Workers

The livestock and dry land small grain activities are the major crops that employ regular hired farm workers. The general trend of employment for 1970 was slightly less than previous years. Generally good weather resulted in normal agricultural activities with few setbacks.

Mechanization is having its inroads and does decrease needs in some activities, such as mechanized feed lots, hay and potato harvests, etc. However, better farming methods and scientific know-how is producing more from acreages. Reclaimed land and increased acreages were evident.

Dry land and small grain farms continue to increase in size with the result that more farm machinery is being used. This is true especially in the eastern part of the state. Small acreages persist in western Montana. Many of the larger farms are maintaining large equipment and repair sheds, thus creating demands for skilled mechanical help and heavy machinery operators. There is a constant demand for good skilled operators.

IMPACT OF MECHANIZATION AND OTHER CHANGES IN PRODUCTION METHODS

A. The growing, care and processing of sugar beets has been considered the main crop mechanized to the most significant degree in recent years. The harvest as heretofore mentioned in the previous report is about 100 percent mechanized, and thinning around 70 percent. Considerable care in the planting of the seeds is important for the subsequent use of mechanical thinners. Seeds of the monogerm type must be placed in the ground at a pre-determined depth and interval of space. The size of the beet seed and cells of the plate in the planter must match. The equipment is simple in construction and does not require specialized knowledge to repair. During this season machines were used that would top six rows of sugar beets and dig three rows at a time thus contributing to a shorter harvest season and less labor.

1. Machines being used are hay harvesters which require but one person to operate. Potato harvesters are operated at times by family members. Bean harvesters have eliminated labor in the state. Large mechanical equipment is being used for soil preparation, seeding and summer fallowing. Mechanical corn pickers eliminated labor several years ago. Mechanical beet thinners and weedacides have made great strides in sugar beet operations. Feeding of cattle is getting more mechanized through the feed lot process. Mechanical grain harvesting is getting more efficient.

2. Skilled machine operators and repairman are in demand. There is a shortage of such workers, although some are being trained. The general influx of workers into the state contain very few skilled workers. There should be some way of training migrants prior to the migration. Although there is a seasonable demand for such workers, a displaced worker trained as such would not be guaranteed year around work.

3. Labor requirements resulting from mechanization this past season caused some demand, especially in the spring and fall, but demands for unskilled labor decreased from previous years. Mechanization has shortened the term of seasonal employment when weather conditions were normal.

4. Trends are toward getting employers organized to compete for labor, although this is slow. There is still an influx of farm labor into other fields of endeavor due to better incentives. Some employers recognize the changes needed but not enough yet. Technological changes will force changes in the agriculture labor market similar to the non-agricultural.

B. Improved seeding in sugar beets continues to make the thinning process less laborious all the time. Weedacides are eliminating labor to a great extent. Workers are moving through row crops faster than previously.

RECRUITMENT AND UTILIZATION OF FARM WORKERS

A. Radio, television, newspaper publicity, letters, and posters were utilized by the local offices to obtain the maximum supply of local seasonal farm workers. Excellent results were obtained.

One local office recruited youth for work in sugar beets. This proved to be very satisfactory.

Volunteer Farm Placement Representatives were used in most local office areas. Where possible, VFPR's made placements from local sources or transmitted unfilled orders to local offices for action. Farmers and ranchers were advised of their local VFPR through local newspapers, radio, posters, and by direct promotional mail from the local offices. While all VFPR's were not 100 percent effective, it is planned to continue this activity in 1971 with possibilities of Rural Representatives being added.

As the local skilled labor supply was not sufficient to meet the demand for regular hired farm workers, Inter-office clearance was used for some occupations. A greater influx of out-of-state workers occurred during the 1970 season.

B. Montana Participated in the Annual Worker Plan

As an order-holding state, Montana received scheduled crews and family heads in response to inter-state orders for 1750 workers from Texas for the beet fields. Bulletins to California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho usually result in sufficient migration from west coast cherry orchards to fill the needs of the 750 pickers needed in Montana cherry orchards, when crop conditions are normal. No problems were involved relating to transportation, wages, housing, food, etc, but the work was very short in duration as heavy rains destroyed the larger part of the crop. The 1750 beet workers represented a reduction of 550 workers from last season.

C. Numerous inspections were made. These were directly related to interstate recruitment. When inspections are made prior to occupancy, and until domestic recruitment is completed, it is not possible to determine whether housing will be occupied by domestic families or groups of single workers. All housing is basically family type, or farm, necessitating a dual determination of suitability.

All agency inspections are made as a part of the regular program of field visiting. About 800 housing units are occupied at some time during the eight-week period that migratory labor is employed in large numbers.

State housing regulations are under the Dept. of Labor and the administration of the State Board of Health, Division of Environmental Sanitation. The latter agency limits participation in inspection, and lacks funds and personnel to investigate complaints and test water sources.

No difficulties have been encountered in arranging cooperation. There has not been any instance when, after attempts to secure improvement of unsatisfactory housing by other means, the State Board of Health has not cooperated to the extent of their resources. Employers who did not conform to housing regulations will be denied recruitment of workers unless housing meets requirements prior to time of recruitment. Greater coverage of housing inspections is being attempted with limited personnel.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER COMMUNITY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The local Farm Placement Representatives are working with rural development programs and are continuing special surveys of manpower resources, underemployment and unemployment in rural areas. They are gathering routine employment security data to be used in economic base reports and plans for rural development. However, such activities are limited from lack of personnel, equipment and finances. Therefore, only a token of rural development programs can be carried out due to the amount of travel involved and due to the fact that the greater emphasis and finances are going into urban programs. The migration influx continues from the rural areas to the urban areas. We are cooperating with all committees, community groups, state or Federal organizations to remedy the rural problems. Our agency pushes ideas to unite farmers and ranchers to helping solve their labor problems. So far, employers are not organized toward promoting central labor camps, etc. A Concerted Services project has started in the Roundup area. An Experimental and Demonstration Project - MDTA Agribusiness Unit is in the proposal stage.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

State and local office personnel participated in farm organization meetings, Chamber of Commerce, civic groups and public schools to strengthen public understanding of the Agency's Farm and rural Placement Program. Generally, the method is round table or informal discussion from the floor.

Newspaper, radio and television is used to disseminate farm labor market information. All local offices regularly prepare news releases designed for listener and reader appeal. Thousands of farm and harvest bulletins are mailed each year.

EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

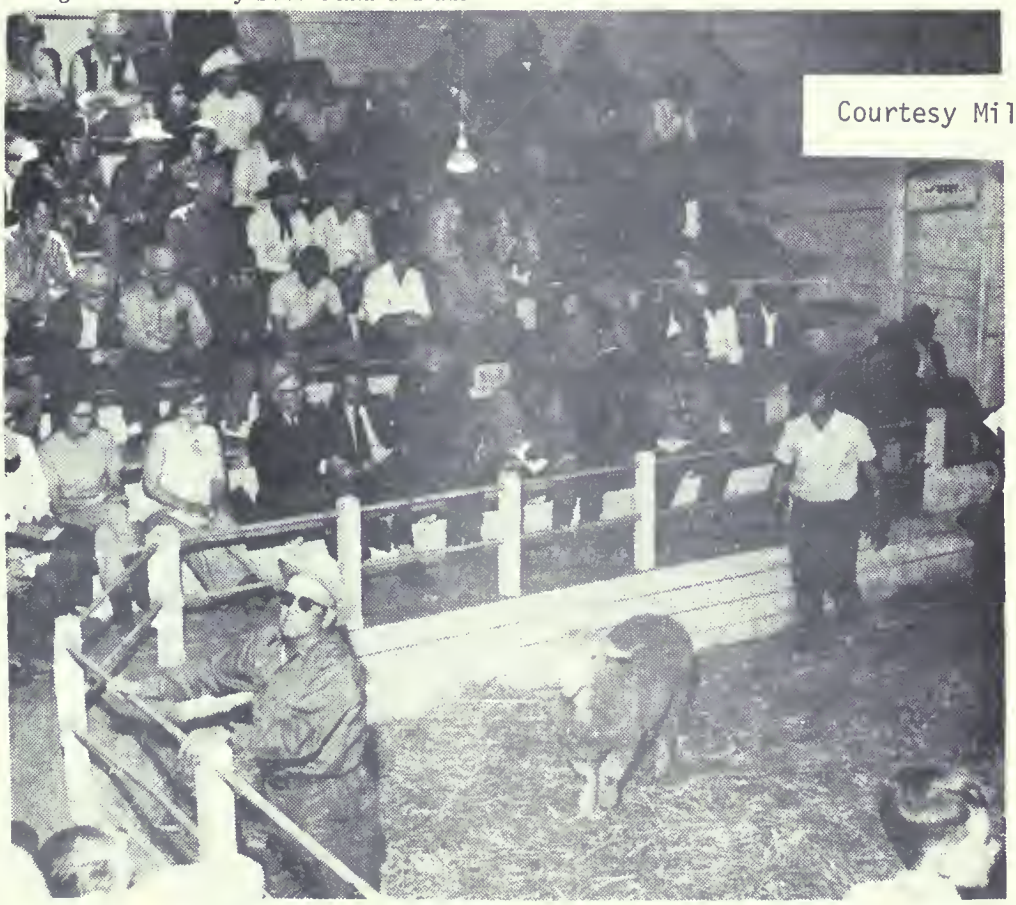
Placement totals decreased slightly under the preceding year. Weather, growing and harvesting conditions varied. This decrease was due to mechanization. The cherry crop was partially rained out in Polson and Kalispell. Activities, especially in livestock and haying were up from

the previous year. Grain farming was down from previous years. The "Youth in Sugar Beet Program" was minimized due to a good supply of domestic workers from Texas. Domestic workers were plentiful and considered very good help by most employers, but in short supply during the spring and fall periods. The influx of outside labor was more than adequate.

Every effort will be made to fully utilize local sources of labor, particularly in counties eligible under Public Works and Economic Development Acts. We would like to see some means of training transients at their source so that there will be more skilled workers among the transients who migrate to Montana each year.

Montana Ram sale going strong

A Targhee stud ram consigned by R. O. Burch of Hammond is herded around the sale ring (upper photo) at the Eastern Montana Fairgrounds and was the first head of over 725 consigned sold as the 21st Montana Ram Sale got underway at noon Thursday. Officials of the sale shown on the elevated platform on the right are Jerry McKibbin of First Security Bank, clerk; Woolgrower's secretary Dave Smith and auctioneer Dean Parker of Auburn, Calif. This particular ram sold for $290 to Leonard Wilson of Newell, S.D. In the lower photo, another Targhee ram, this one consigned by the Montana Experiment Station in Bozeman, is in the foreground while a portion of the SRO crowd is in the background. This stud was bought by B. M. Beastman of Pierre, S.D., for $350. (Mark Kron Photos)



Courtesy Miles City Star

PART II

OUTLOOK FOR COMING YEAR

STATE FORECAST

The outlook on agricultural employment for Montana in 1971 is that employment is expected to be slightly under 1970 pending satisfactory weather conditions. However, since 1970 was a good year, it could be that with more mechanization employment will decline perhaps to the extent of several hundred workers. Should moisture be sufficient, employment may not change to a significant extent. With usual winter conditions, the later part of the year some pickup should occur in feeding operations. The good fall grain seeding conditions experienced and no repitition of reduced sugar beet acreage could make some difference in farm labor demands.

AREA FORECAST

AREA 9-28-01

Western Fruit and Sugar Beets

Agricultural Reporting Area 9-28-01, Western Fruit and Sugar Beet (Flathead Lake, Missoula, Ravalli, Granite, Powell, Lewis and Clark, Jefferson, Broadwater, and Meagher Counties).

The farm labor outlook for the coming year should be slightly down from 1970 provided weather conditions are favorable. Local and migratory labor should be available for all activities. Sugar beet acreage will remain on a reduced basis since this is no longer considered a primary rain damage destruction as was experienced in 1970. The 1970 crop was down more than 50% due to severe hail and rain after a third of the crop was harvested.

The crop activities and approximate time periods involved are:

Crop Activities	Period Involved
Soil preparation and seeding	April-May
Sugar beet thinning, hoeing, weeding	May-August
Haying	June-September
Irrigating	May-August
Small fruit harvest	July-August
Small grain harvest	August
Potato harvest	September
Sugar beet harvest	September-October
Livestock seasonal activities	January-December

AREA 9-28-02

Southern Sugar Beets

Agricultural Reporting Area 9-28-02, Southern Sugar Beet (Golden Valley, Musselshell, Stillwater, Yellowstone, Treasure, Carbon, and Big Horn Counties).

Again the weather will be the deciding factor. It is expected labor requirements will be under those of 1970. The supply and demand for labor in irrigated activities will be approximately the same as last year. Local and migratory labor is expected to meet demands in all activities including sugar beets. A portion of the demand can be met through youth groups in the thinning, hoeing and weeding of sugar beets. Migrant domestic workers will be available for other states following the completion of thinning and hoeing of sugar beets in July. Sugar beet acreage may be decreased in this area.

The activities and approximate time periods involved:

Crop Activities	Periods Involved
Spring soil preparation and seeding	April-May
Sugar beet thinning, hoeing, weeding	May 15-July 31
Haying	June-August
Fallowing	June-September
Small grain harvest	July-August
Sweet corn harvest	August 15-Sept. 15
Field corn harvest	August
Sugar beet harvest	September-October
Livestock seasonal activities	January-December

AREA 9-28-03

Lower Yellowstone Beet and Grain

Agricultural Reporting Area 9-28-03, Lower Yellowstone Beet and Grain (Garfield, McCone, Richland, Dawson, Prairie, Wibaux, Rosebud, Custer, Fallon, Powder River, and Carter Counties).

Should moisture content repeat that of 1970, employment requirements should be the same except there could be some adjustment on sugar beet acreages. In irrigated areas there is little anticipated change. Local and migratory labor should be available for all activities including sugar beets. Demands could be less due to the success of weedacides by several hundred workers during the 1970 season.

The crop activities and approximate time periods involved are:

Crop Activities	Periods Involved
Spring soil preparation and seeding	April-May
Sugar beet thinning, hoeing, weeding	May-July
Haying	June-August
Irrigation	June-September
Fallowing	May-August
Small grain harvest	July-August
Sugar beet harvest	September-October
Livestock seasonal activities	January-December

AREA 9-28-04

Triangle and Highline Hardwheat

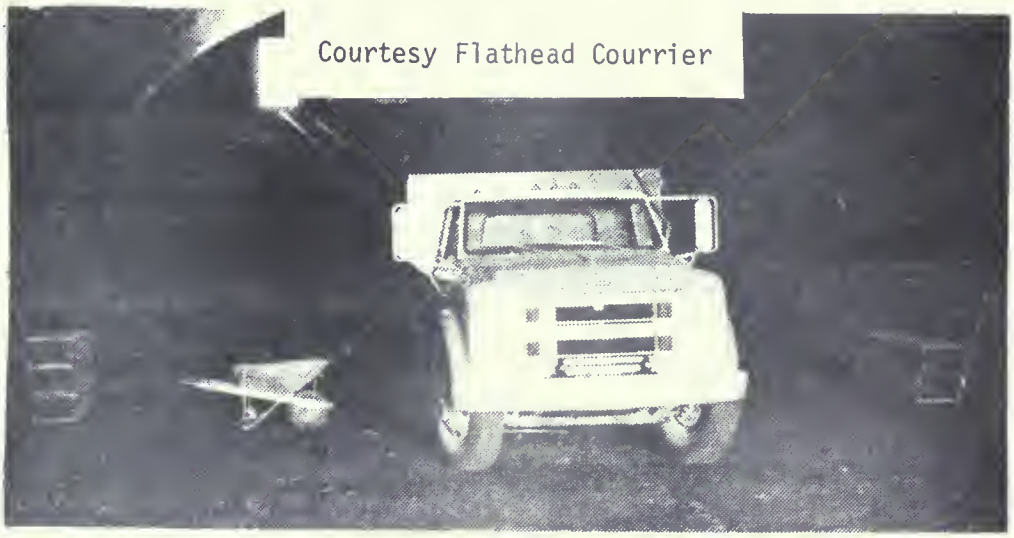
Agricultural Reporting Area 9-28-04, Triangle and Highline Hard Wheat (Teton, Choteau, Cascade, Judith Basin, Hill, Blaine, Phillips, Valley, Daniels, Roosevelt, and Sheridan Counties).

This is primarily a dry land wheat growing and livestock area. Should sufficient moisture be received in 1971, the labor requirements will be up but less than for 1970. However, a dry year could make a difference. It is anticipated that local workers and voluntary in-migration of interstate workers will satisfy all demands for this area's activities.

Sugar beet acreage and the demand for labor is expected to be down from 1970.

Crop Activities	Periods Involved
Spring soil preparation and seeding	April-May
Sugar beet thinning and hoeing	May-June
Haying	June-August
Irrigation	June-August
Small grain harvest	July-August
Fallowing	May-September
Sugar beet harvest	October
Livestock seasonal activities	January-December

IT'S POTATO PICKIN' TIME in Lake County as some 2,000 acres of certified seed spuds are harvested. Mechanical picker shown here is pulled by Leonard Hern's tractor; women atop the machine make sure potatoes and vines are separated. Spuds are then loaded onto trucks and transported to the storage cellars. (Helen Johnson photos)



TRUCKLOAD OF SPUDS is unloaded in storage building. The spuds are stacked 16 ft. high and temperatures are checked twice daily all winter long to assure proper temperature control. (Helen Johnson photo)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Bureau of Employment Security
ES-225 Table I (R-10/68)

STATE
MONTANA

CALENDAR YEAR REPORTED
1970

ITEM	NUMBER
SECTION A. DAY-HAUL ACTIVITIES AT POINTS OPERATED BY STATE AGENCY	
1. Town with day-haul points	None
2. Number of day-haul points	None
3. Sum of days day-haul points operated during year	None
4. Total number of workers transported during year	None
SECTION B. SELECTED SERVICES TO SCHOOL-AGE WORKERS (Under 22 years)	
5. Supervised camps operated for school-age farm workers	None
a. Placements in camps	None
6. Placements of school-age workers in supervised live-in farm homes	None
SECTION C. SERVICES TO INDIANS LIVING ON RESERVATIONS	
7. Rendered by on-reservation local offices or at itinerant points	
a. Farm Placements	419
b. Applicant-holding acceptances	38
8. Other farm placements of reservation Indians	632
SECTION D. OTHER SELECTED DATA	
9. Number of local offices which held farm clinics	None
10. Sum of days on which farm clinics were held	None
11. Total number of local offices participating in formal community service programs	4
12. Peak number of volunteer farm placement representatives . . .	134

SIGNATURE Jess C. Fletcher
Jess C. Fletcher

TITLE
Director,
Employment Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Bureau of Employment Security
ES-225 Table 2 (R-10/68)

STATE

MONTANA

CALENDAR YEAR REPORTED

1970

COMPOSITION OF INTERSTATE FARM MIGRANT GROUPS

SECTION A. MIGRANT GROUP CONTACTS			SECTION B. REPORTING STATE'S RESIDENTS		SECTION C. GROUP'S WORKING IN REPORTING STATE	
I TYPE	II BY REPORTING STATE	III REPORTING STATES RES.	I TYPE	II NUMBER	I TYPE	II NUMBER
1. Total	277		2. Total Persons		4. Families	362
a. Crew leaders	30		3. Total Workers		5. Unattached Males	103
b. Family heads	238		XXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	6. Unattached Females	8
c. Other	9		XXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX

SECTION D. COMMENTS

There were no transportation problems encountered.

Housing had deteriorated some.

Re-inspections are to be made on those not up to standard prior to the recruitment clearance order.

SIGNATURE Jess C. Fletcher

Jess C. Fletcher

TITLE Director, Employment Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Bureau of Employment Security
Form ES-225 Table 3 (R-10/68)

STATE MONTANA
CALENDAR YEAR REPORTED 1970

INTERSTATE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES

ITEM	ORDERS EXTENDED (Sec.A) RECEIVED (Sec.B)	ORDERS FILLED	OPENINGS EXTENDED (Sec.A) RECEIVED (Sec.B)	OPENINGS FILLED
I	II	III	IV	V
SECTION A. REPORTING STATE AS ORDER-HOLDING STATE				
1. Reporting State, TOTAL	5	4	2194	2195
2. Applicant-holding States involved:				
Utah	1	1	2	2
Texas	1	1	10	10
Texas-Colorado	1	1	1000	1000
Texas-Colorado	1	1	750	750
SECTION B. REPORTING STATE AS APPLICANT-HOLDING STATE				
3. Reporting State, TOTAL	48	2	4040	548
4. Order-holding States involved:				
Minnesota	2	0	2	0
Nevada	1	0	1	0
North Dakota	0	0	0	76
Wisconsin	0	0	0	46
Wyoming	8	0	32	0

SECTION C. COMMENTS

Sugar beet worker referrals which were accepted by other states are included, some of which did not have formal clearance orders extended to Montana.

SIGNATURE	TITLE
Jess C. Fletcher	Director, Employment Service

BEET HARVEST - September is sugar beet harvest time in the Yellowstone Valley. Here, Mrs. Carranza begins the beet digging operation on her farm located just north of Sidney. According to preliminary reports, the beet harvest here is expected to be about the same in volume and content as it was last year, despite the late start. A cold, wet spring delayed beet planting in this area.

Courtesy Sidney Herald

PART III. ATTACHMENTS TO REPORT

Lists of Information Stations and Seasonal Offices.

Montana operates a Mobile office at Hardin, Montana, in the Billings local office area. This operates from April 1 through October 15th. There is a weekly itinerant service to each Indian Reservation.

Temporary farm offices are operated each year by the Great Falls local office. This is at Fort Benton in the heart of the grain country. Office space is rented during the seeding and soil preparation season in the spring usually through part of April and May. The office is set up again during the harvest from the latter part of July through the third week in August.

Special Studies.

A special study was made of rural manpower activities during the first eight months of 1970.

Bulletins and Promotional Materials.

Farm bulletins, farm letters, newspaper advertising, and promotional materials used during the 1970 season are included.

Montana Farm Labor Bulletin

FARM PLACEMENT DIVISION
MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

U.C.C. Building — Helena, Montana
Phone 442-3260 — Ext. 540

August 12, 1970 Number 29

STATE SUMMARY: Grain and wheat harvest, flood irrigating, summer fallowing, swathing and fencing are major activities this week. Weather hot with scattered showers. Supply and demand in balance.

Crop conditions change rapidly - Contact the nearest local office before leaving area.

WESTERN:

ANACONDA: First cutting of alfalfa completed in most areas. Cutting of wild hay progressing well. Labor supply meeting demand.

BUTTE: Heavy showers the last few days has slowed haying operations. One dairy couple needed $275 per month plus housing.

DILLON: Weather very hot with rain showers. Main activities are haying, irrigation, fencing, summer fallowing and winter wheat harvesting. Short 12 flood irrigators $250-$300 per month R&B.

HAMILTON: Main activities are haying, irrigating, cherry picking and general farm and ranch work. Sour cherry harvest is in full swing this week but very little demand for help due to use of mechanical pickers. Labor supply remains balanced with no current shortages.

HELENA: Wild grass hay about 30% completed. Heavy dews holding operations to late mornings. Temperature 33 one morning last week. Short stackers and operators from time to time. Alfalfa hay about completed. Grain harvest going from late mornings to sundown. No known needs for machines or men.

KALISPELL: Main activities are grain and hay harvest, irrigating and general farm work. Wages $1.50 to $2.00 per hour. Labor supply adequate. Weather has been hot and dry.

MISSOULA: Haying and irrigation main activities. Weather cool with heavy dew in early morning. Grain harvest expected to get underway this week. Labor supply meeting demands.

OLSON: Weather hot and dry. Continuing roguing of potatoes and haying are main activities. Harvesting of grain well underway. No shortages of labor at this time.

SOUTH CENTRAL:

BILLINGS: Activities are grain harvest, haying, irrigating, summer fallowing and straw baling. Shortages are three farm couples at $325 per month plus housing; two harvest hands at $15-20 per day plus board and room. Weather unsettled with temperature extremes daily. GRAIN HARVEST: Grain harvest progressing rapidly as weather permits. Approximately 110 custom units are operating in this area and supply is currently meeting demand. Worker supply currently meeting demand. Yields for winter wheat running from 25 to 40 bu per acre - protein 11 to 12½ and weight 60-61 lbs. Spring wheat early report - irrigated running 50-65 bu. per acre and 63 lbs. No tests results on protein. Barley-early report - dryland 25 to 30 bu per acre and irrigated running to 80 bu. Oats too early for report.

BOZEMAN: Current activities: Fencing, flood irrigation, summer fallowing, cutting alfalfa for silage and haying when weather permits. Short (1) married couple on diversified farm, operating equipment, helping flood irrigate, feeding and caring of cattle. Job is permanent. Prefers a family man with 1 or 2 children allowed. Wages start at $375 per month. References will be checked. Supply meeting demand for hay hands. WHEAT BULLETIN: Grain turning. First cut nearly done. Combining starting on limited basis. No call for harvest help.

MONTANA STATE
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
P. O. BOX 1728
HELENA, MONTANA 59601

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Montana Farm Labor Bulletin

FARM PLACEMENT DIVISION
MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

U.C.C. Building — Helena, Montana
Phone 442-3260 — Ext. 540

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
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LOCAL - STATE - NATIONAL

EWISTOWN: Wheat harvest is main activity - 30% completed. No shortages at this time. Few crews being hired. Weather cool but dry.
IVINGSTON: Haying & irrigating are main activities. Shortage of experienced irrigators in rea. Wage $10-$12 p/da B&R. No shortages of hay hands but anticipate shortage after Sept. 1st.

NORTH CENTRAL

UT BANK: Weather warm & dry. Main activities: haying, summer fallowing and fencing. Harvest wathing getting underway but main harvest still 2 weeks away. Labor shortage expected next eek.
LASGOW: Activities are haying and harvesting. Supply of local & transient workers is about qual to demand as only a small amount of harvesting is underway. Crop prospects are relatively ood and the demand for workers will increase rapidly in the next few days as crops mature. ages $1.50-$2.00 and $225-$300 per month DOA.
REAT FALLS: Weather ranged from warm to hot. Main activities are haying, summer fallowing and rain harvest. Wages range from $10 to $15 p/da for haying and summer fallowing from $15-$25 /da for harvest work. GRAIN HARVEST: Harvest work has progressed very slowly with winter heat harvest about 50% cut in Fort Benton, Loma and Geraldine areas. Very little barley ripe nough to harvest. Very little harvest activities in the immediate Gt. Falls area but expect arvest to progress rapidly by midweek. No shortages of men or machines.
AVRE: Weather warm with some local scattered showers which is delaying some work. Main ctivities are haying and summer fallowing. Harvest has gotten underway the past two days. No hortage of men or machines at this time. If weather permits should be in full swing by the end f this week.
HELBY: Weather warm - dry. Main activities; summer fallowing & swathing. Wages $12-$15. ouples $300-$350. Anticipate shortage of workers late this week. HARVEST: Harvest progress aried depending on area. Some spot cutting. No machine shortage anticipated. Excess of custom utters at present. Expect shortage of combine operators and tractor drivers late this week.
OLF POINT: Harvesting confined to winter wheat in southern part of Roosevelt & McCone counties. pring wheat harvest to start in McCone in about 10 days. Haying and summer fallowing in pro- ress in other areas. No surplus in any category.

EASTERN

ENDIVE: Grain harvest, haying, summer fallowing, putting up straw are the main activities in rea. Heavy rain curtailed field work for few days. No shortages of help, students filling in th plenty to spare. Short 2 farm couples capable of running farm & ranch while owners away, 50 plus housing, must be fully experienced.
LES CITY: Major activities include grain harvest, haying & summer fallowing: Grain harvest ould be completed this week or early next week. Labor supply and demand balanced.
DNEY: Current activity winter wheat harvest. Weather hot with scattered showers. Short 5 ngle farmhands $12-$15 p/da and 1 married couple $350 p/mo and house furnished. HARVEST: nter wheat harvest is being held up some by rain and some green wheat. No shortage of machines ported. Good demand for experienced harvest hands.

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Montana State
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Unemployment
Insurance

Dear Sir:

As you realize the time is fast approaching when preparations will have to be made for the coming farming season. Not only will machinery have to be put into good operating shape but additional help will have to be employed to get the job done.

The recruitment and placement of hired help is an important factor in this area, especially at this time of the year. More farm operators utilize migrant workers to get the spring activities started than at any other period except during harvest operations.

Many operators realize that by placing orders early their chances of receiving adequate help is much better than waiting until the last minute before deciding that they need an extra hand. Therefore, it is our suggestion that if you contemplate the hiring of extra help in the near future that you place your order with our office here in Great Falls at 1000 First Avenue South or by calling 453-0351.

Each community has a Volunteer Farm Representative who could be contacted by you and there are possibilities that he may have a local man available for you or if not he is authorized to relay the order to our Great Falls office for processing.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Cady, Manager
Great Falls Local Office

by: Roy O. Young
Farm Representative

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 1970

NOTICE!

Farmers and Ranchers!!

FORT BENTON, GERALDINE, CARTER and LOMA AREAS

The Montana State Employment Service
Temporary Labor Office

IS NOW OPEN

LOCATION:—PASTIME CAFE
1406 FRONT ST. IN FORT BENTON
CONTACT:—REPRESENTATIVE
Call 622-3734 Fort Benton

PLACE YOUR FARM ORDER NOW!!

Family Page

Montanans help form Indian Women's Assoc.

Women representing six of Montana's seven Indian tribes attended the first meeting of Indian women dedicated to improving their communities in Fort Collins, Colo. There were 62 women from 42 tribes in 22 states, and they organized as the North American Indian Women's Association. The NAIWA will meet tentatively next June in Oklahoma. Left to right are Madeline Colliflower, Hays, Fort Belknap Reservation; Cecilia Corcoran, Box Elder, Rocky Boy Reservation; Ursula Higgins, Browning, Blackfeet; Pat Littlewolf, Busby, Northern Cheyenne; Ann Bigman, Crow Agency, Crow; and Catherine Eder, Poplar, Fort Peck Reservation. Mrs. Littlewolf was elected secretary-treasurer.

Announcer has first-hand rodeo experience

Gib Lloyd of Broadus, who will be the announcer for the two performances of the Eastern Montana Fair rodeo, will bring to the microphone a first-hand knowledge of rodeo. Lloyd, shown here departing one of producer Marvin Brookman's Appaloosa horses, has performed in a large number of rodeos himself and has also taught the sport to some of the high school students in Broadus. The Fair rodeos will be held at 8 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 14, and at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 15 in the arena at the Fairgrounds.

Courtesy Miles City Star

Potatoes Are Big Business In Lake County Economy

By Helen Johnson

Since 1954, with the organization of Lake County's Seed Growers Association, potato production has zoomed upward until there are now 2,000 acres planted in seed potatoes each year here.

A yield of about 600,000 sacks of certified seed potatoes, about two thirds of the state's crop, is shipped to Washington, Oregon and California. Very little of the commercial "bakers" are sold in the area.

One of the men instrumental in forming the local association was Sid Tietema, former Lake County Agent now stationed at Bozeman. There are 20 members in it now, including farmers from St. Ignatius, Ronan, Pablo and Polson. Many of these have seen the days when sugar beets were replaced by the potato crops. D. A. Herns and Sons have been potato growers since 1932, harvesting 300 sacks to an acre on their 200 acres.

James F. and Paul Fleming, brothers, have 470 acres in seed potatoes, and are considered the largest growers in the state, shipping 250 carloads out of Pablo during the spring season between February and May.

On the steering committee for the National Potato Council and also on the board of directors for Montana Potato Improvement Association (MIPA), James Fleming, Jr. can put his points across in any question about the calories contained in potatoes. He has it straight from the horse's mouth (U.S.D.A.) that potatoes contain fewer calories per serving than many of the foods being substituted for them by those trying to lose weight!

Tubers Free of Virus

Latent virus diseases, including those labeled X, S, M and Y, have plagued seed potato growers for years. Recently, however, growers have planted some nucleus stock in isolated patches and sent their Russet Burbank samples to the University at Bozeman. There a botany and microbiology professor, Dr. James Shepard, has planted the samples in a greenhouse and with research data, has now produced tubers free of the viruses.

By last fall 12 tons of "virus-free" Russet Burbank and some Norgolds were released to certified growers. In Lake County, the seed is distributed on an acreage basis, with all growers participating.

It was pointed out that due to the shorter frost-free period (125 to 130 days), insects carrying bacteria which spread diseases among the plants, are few. In other states, considerable trouble comes from the peach aphids, which are absent here.

Beating the Frost

Harvesting started the last week in September this year, a little earlier than in previous years. The crop is usually in the storage bins in three weeks. To beat possible early frosts, growers have crews on the job from 8 a.m. till late at night.

One grower commented that he lost $40,000 from the Oct. 12 freeze last year which ruined many of the potatoes in the cellars. This year it is planned to have the crop in before a cold spell hits the area.

Everything is mechanized. The potato diggers scoop the potatoes out of the rows, pull them on a conveyor belt to where they can be culled and rocks thrown out; then out a shute into a moving truck and away to the storage bins.

Some growers now have new "air harvesters" which blow the potatoes into the air and the rocks fall below; quite a saving in time. In the other type digger, it takes several women on the digger, sorting out the rocks and vines.

In huge storage buildings, potatoes are piled 16 feet high. Special air vents are provided underneath to regulate heat and cold. All winter the temperature and humidity is checked twice daily.

By February the buyers are arranging for shipping to their areas, most of whom are in the Columbia Basin. Their warmer temperatures allow earlier planting.

At the Fleming ranch, about 25 people are involved at sorting time in the spring. They have installed a new "bagger and sewing machine" which sacks and sews automatically. This has enabled them to nearly double production at shipping time.

Production and price has been quite uniform the past few years and is now stabilized at about 4c a lb., Fleming reported.

In May, between the 20th and 25th, the next year's crop is planted. During the summer, farmers are busy roguing the crops, i. e. taking out any diseased plants. Inspectors from the M.P.I.A. also make three periodic checks of the fields while the plants are lush and growing. If there are any diseased plants, the grower loses his certification.

The potato seed business is getting bigger and better all the time. According to Ed Bratton, County Extension Agent, the county ranks first in production and dollars in the state. And that's some BIG POTATOES!

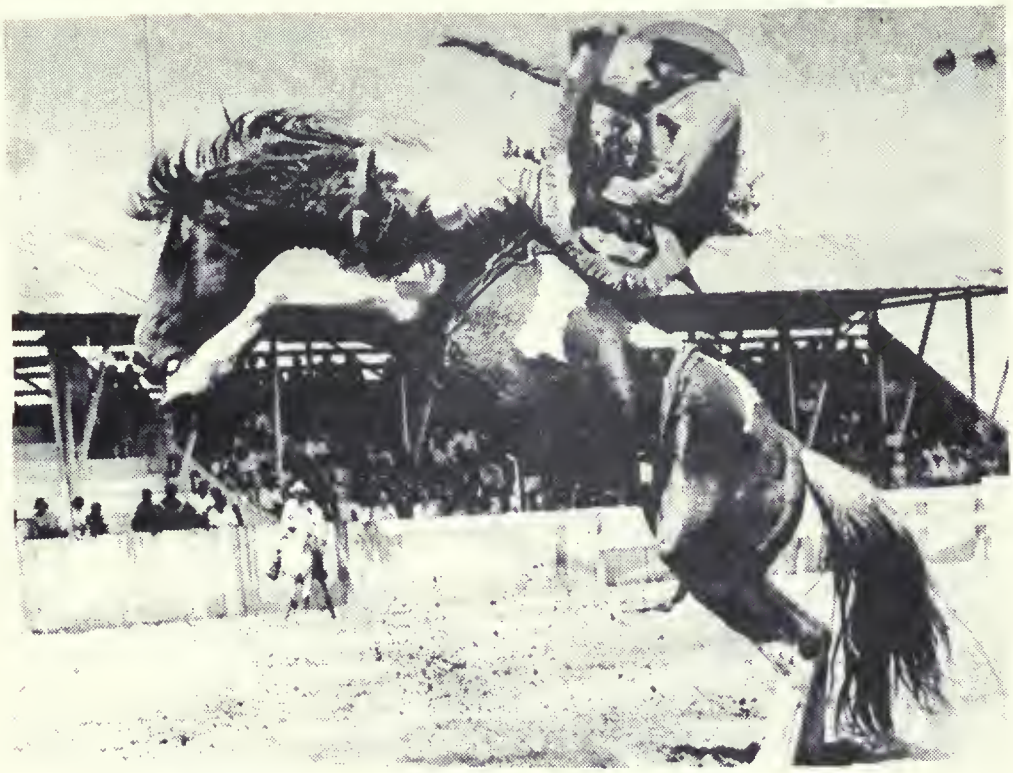
POTATO HARVESTER picture that was left out of last week's article on the Lake County seed potato industry is shown here. The women ride atop the potato digger and make sure that stones and vines are not mixed in with the high quality spuds. Photo here was taken by Helen Johnson on the Leonard Hern farm.

Courtesy Flathead Courrier

GIANT RADISH - Mrs. Ruth Green of 609 6th St. SE looks at a three and one fourth pound white raddish that she picked from her garden Sept. 24. According to Mrs. Green, the radish grew volunteer from seed last year. She said she had to dig it out with a shovel.

Courtesy Sidney Herald

Farm Activities
Great Falls Area



Rodeo action as near as the Fair

Ivan Daines shows nearly winning bareback form while performing on one of Marvin Brookman's pinto horses. The horse will be among the string brought to Miles City for the Eastern Montana Fair Aug. 13-14-15. Brookman will be producing the rodeo in Miles City for the first time this year with performances set for 8 p.m. Friday Aug. 14 and 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 15.

Courtesy Miles City Star

Courtesy Sidney Herald